GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2890
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
PLIGHT OF SOLDIERS POSTED AT GLACIERS
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the casualty of the Indian soldiers posted at the Siachen glacier occurred due to weather conditions during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of arrangements made to protect them from inclement weather at glacier?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Sir, a statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2890 FOR 7.12.2000

Details of confirmed fatal casualties to army personnel due to weather and other environmental factors in the Siachen Glaciers during the last three years are given below:

Year	No. of Casualties
1998	9
1999	22
2000 (Upto 30th September)	7
Total	38

2. The following arrangements have been made by the Government to protect the soldiers from inclement weather:

(a) Wind proof shelters with facility to warm up with bukhari or other warming devices;

(b) Provision of warm clothings, boots, socks, gloves and sleeping bags;

(c) Adequate high calorific nutritive food to meet high energy requirement, with adequate vitamin supplements being provided in case of non-availability of fresh fruits/vegetables;

(d) Regular moderate exercise to keep the blood circulation without causing exhaustion is undertaken to keep the body warm;

(e) Men are trained to inspect/observe each others vulnerable body parts such as face, tip of nose & earlobes to detect early signs of injury and to take timely preventive measures; and

(f) Frequent rotation/change-over after a short duration which helps in avoiding over-exposure and pathological changes.